

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Grow Our Own Teacher Education Act is
5 amended by changing Sections 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, and 35 as
6 follows:

7 (110 ILCS 48/5)

8 Sec. 5. Purpose. The Grow Our Own Teacher preparation
9 programs established under this Act shall comprise a major new
10 statewide initiative, known as the Grow Our Own Teacher
11 Education Initiative, to prepare highly skilled, committed
12 teachers who will teach in hard-to-staff schools and
13 hard-to-staff teaching positions and who will remain in these
14 schools for substantial periods of time.

15 The Grow Our Own Teacher Education Initiative shall
16 effectively recruit and prepare parent and community leaders
17 and paraeducators to become effective teachers ~~and teacher~~
18 ~~leaders~~ statewide in hard-to-staff schools and hard-to-staff
19 teaching positions in schools serving a substantial percentage
20 of low-income students. Further, the Initiative shall increase
21 the diversity of teachers, including diversity based on race,
22 ethnicity, and disability.

23 The Grow Our Own Teacher Education Initiative shall ensure
24 educational rigor by effectively preparing candidates ~~students~~
25 in accredited bachelor's degree programs in teaching, through
26 which graduates shall meet the requirements to secure an
27 Illinois initial ~~standard~~ teaching certificate.

28 The goal of the Grow Our Own Teacher Education Initiative
29 is to add 1,000 teachers to low-income and other hard-to-staff
30 Illinois schools by 2016 with an average retention period of 7
31 years, as opposed to the current rate of 2.5 years for new
32 teachers in such areas.

1 (Source: P.A. 93-802, eff. 1-1-05.)

2 (110 ILCS 48/10)

3 Sec. 10. Definitions. In this Act:

4 "Accredited teacher preparation program" means a State or
5 regionally accredited higher education program authorized to
6 prepare individuals to fulfill all of the requirements to
7 receive an Illinois initial standard teaching certificate.

8 "Hard-to-staff school" means an elementary or secondary
9 school that, based on data compiled by the State Board of
10 Education, ranks in the upper third of schools in this State on
11 a combined index measuring the percentage of the school's
12 teachers who are not fully certified and the percentage of the
13 school's teachers who leave their positions annually.

14 "Hard-to-staff teaching position" means a teaching
15 category (such as special education, mathematics, or science)
16 in which statewide data compiled by the State Board of
17 Education indicates a multi-year pattern of substantial
18 teacher shortage or that has been identified as a critical need
19 by the local school board.

20 "Initiative" means the Grow Our Own Teacher Education
21 Initiative created under this Act.

22 "Paraeducators" means individuals with a history of
23 demonstrated accomplishments in school staff positions (such
24 as teacher assistants, school-community liaisons, school
25 clerks, and security aides) in schools serving a substantial
26 percentage of low-income students.

27 "Parent and community leaders" means individuals with a
28 ~~significant~~ history of working to improve ~~involvement in~~
29 ~~improving~~ schools serving a substantial percentage of
30 low-income students, including membership in a community
31 organization.

32 "Community organization" means a nonprofit organization
33 that has a demonstrated capacity to train, develop, and
34 organize parents and community leaders into a constituency that
35 will hold the school and the school district accountable for

1 achieving high academic standards; in addition to
2 organizations with a geographic focus, "community
3 organization" includes general parent organizations,
4 organizations of special education or bilingual education
5 parents, and school employee unions.

6 "Program" means a Grow Our Own Teacher preparation program
7 established by a consortium under this Act.

8 "Schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income
9 students" means schools whose percentage of students receiving
10 free or reduced-price lunches is at or above the
11 district-average percentage.

12 "State Board" means the State Board of Education.

13 (Source: P.A. 93-802, eff. 1-1-05.)

14 (110 ILCS 48/20)

15 Sec. 20. Selection of grantees. The State Board shall award
16 grants to up to 10 qualified consortia that reflect the
17 distribution and diversity of target hard-to-staff schools
18 across this State. In awarding grants, the State Board shall
19 select programs that successfully address Initiative criteria
20 and that reflect a diversity of strategies in terms of serving
21 urban areas, serving rural areas, the nature of the
22 participating institutions of higher education, whether
23 participants will be trained at the baccalaureate or graduate
24 ~~master's~~ level, and the nature of hard-to-staff teaching
25 positions on which a program is focused.

26 The State Board shall select consortia that meet the
27 following requirements:

28 (1) A consortium shall be composed of at least one
29 4-year institution of higher education with an accredited
30 teacher preparation program, at least one school district
31 or group of schools, and one or more community
32 organizations. The consortium may also include a 2-year
33 institution of higher education or a school employee union
34 or both.

35 (2) The 4-year institution of higher education

1 participating in the consortium shall have past,
2 demonstrated success in preparing teachers for elementary
3 or secondary schools serving a substantial percentage of
4 low-income students.

5 (3) The consortium shall focus on a clearly defined set
6 of target schools serving a substantial percentage of
7 low-income students that will be the primary focus of the
8 program. The consortium shall articulate the steps that it
9 will carry out in preparing teachers for its target
10 hard-to-staff schools and in preparing teachers for one or
11 more hard-to-staff teaching positions in its target
12 schools.

13 (4) Candidate ~~Student~~ participants in a program under
14 the Initiative must hold a high school diploma or its
15 equivalent and must meet either the definition of "parent
16 and community leaders" or the definition of
17 "paraeducators" contained in Section 10 of this Act.

18 (5) The consortium shall employ effective procedures
19 for teaching the skills and knowledge needed to prepare
20 highly competent teachers. Professional preparation
21 ~~Instruction~~ shall include on-going direct experience in
22 target schools and evaluation ~~analysis~~ of this experience.

23 (6) The consortium shall offer the program to cohorts
24 of candidates ~~students~~ who begin by moving through the
25 program together. The program shall be offered on a
26 schedule that enables candidates ~~students~~ to work full time
27 while participating in the program and allows
28 paraeducators to continue in their current positions. The
29 consortium shall guarantee that support will be available
30 to an admitted cohort through the cohort's full period of
31 training. At the beginning of the Initiative, programs that
32 are already operating and existing cohorts of candidates
33 ~~students~~ under this model shall be eligible for funding.

34 (7) The institutions of higher education participating
35 in the consortium shall document and agree to expend the
36 same amount of funds in implementing the program that these

1 institutions spend on average per candidate ~~student~~ ~~on~~
2 ~~similar educational programs~~. Grants received by the
3 consortium shall supplement and not supplant these
4 amounts.

5 (8) The State Board shall establish additional
6 criteria for review of proposals, including criteria that
7 address the following issues:

8 (A) Previous experience of the institutions of
9 higher education in preparing candidates ~~students~~ for
10 hard-to-staff schools and positions and in working
11 with candidates ~~students~~ with non-traditional
12 backgrounds.

13 (B) The quality of the implementation plan,
14 including strategies for overcoming institutional
15 barriers to the progress of non-traditional candidates
16 ~~students~~.

17 (C) If a community college is a participant, the
18 nature and extent of existing articulation agreements
19 and guarantees between the community college and the
20 4-year institution of higher education.

21 (D) The number of candidates ~~participants~~ to be
22 trained in the current cohort or cohorts and the
23 capacity of the consortium for adding cohorts in future
24 cycles.

25 (E) Experience of the community organization or
26 organizations in organizing parents and community
27 leaders to achieve school improvement and a strong
28 relational school culture.

29 (F) The qualifications of the person or persons
30 designated by the 4-year institution of higher
31 education to be responsible for cohort support and the
32 development of a shared learning and social
33 environment among candidates ~~participants~~.

34 (G) The consortium's plan for collective
35 consortium decision-making, including mechanisms for
36 community and candidate ~~participant~~ input.

1 (H) The consortium's plan for direct impact of the
2 program on the quality of education in the target
3 schools.

4 (I) The relevance of the curriculum to the needs of
5 targeted schools and positions, and the use in
6 curriculum and instructional planning of principles
7 for effective education of adults ~~adult education~~.

8 (J) The availability of classes under the program
9 in places and times accessible to the candidates
10 ~~participants~~.

11 (K) Provision of a level of performance to be
12 maintained by candidates ~~participants~~ as a condition
13 of continuing in the program.

14 (L) The plan of the 4-year institution of higher
15 education to ensure that candidates ~~students~~ take
16 advantage of existing financial aid resources before
17 using the loan funds described in Section 25 of this
18 Act.

19 (M) The availability of supportive services,
20 including counseling, tutoring, and child care.

21 (N) A plan for continued participation of
22 graduates of the program in a program of support for at
23 least 2 years, including mentoring and group meetings.

24 (O) A plan for testing and qualitative evaluation
25 of candidates' ~~participants'~~ teaching skills that
26 ensures that graduates of the program are as prepared
27 for teaching as other individuals completing the
28 institution of higher education's preparation program
29 for the certificate sought ~~those from the conventional~~
30 ~~teacher training program of the 4 year institution of~~
31 ~~higher education~~.

32 (P) A plan for internal evaluation that provides
33 reports at least yearly on the progress of candidates
34 ~~participants~~ towards graduation and the impact of the
35 program on the target schools and their communities.

36 (Q) Contributions from schools, school districts,

1 and other consortia members to the program, including
2 stipends for candidates ~~participants~~ during their
3 student teaching.

4 (R) Consortium commitment for sustaining the
5 program over time, as evidenced by plans for reduced
6 requirements for external funding in subsequent
7 cycles.

8 (Source: P.A. 93-802, eff. 1-1-05.)

9 (110 ILCS 48/25)

10 Sec. 25. Expenditures under the Initiative.

11 (a) Every program under the Initiative shall implement and
12 manage a program of forgivable loans to cover any portion of
13 tuition and direct expenses of candidates ~~students~~ under the
14 program in excess of grants-in-aid and other forgivable loans
15 received. All candidates ~~students~~ admitted to a cohort shall be
16 eligible for such loans. Loans shall be fully forgiven if a
17 graduate completes 5 years of service in a hard-to-staff school
18 or hard-to-staff teaching position.

19 (b) Grants under the Initiative shall be awarded in such a
20 way as to provide the required support for a cohort of
21 candidates ~~students~~ for the cohort's entire training period.
22 Program budgets must show expenditures for the entire period
23 that candidates ~~participants~~ are expected to be enrolled.

24 (c) No funds under the Initiative may be used to supplant
25 the average per-capita expenditures by the institution of
26 higher education for candidates ~~students in regular education~~
27 ~~degree programs~~.

28 (d) Where necessary, program budgets shall include the
29 costs of child care to permit candidates ~~parents~~ to maintain a
30 full class schedule. Child care may be provided by the
31 community organization or organizations or be independently
32 contracted for.

33 (e) The institution of higher education may expend grant
34 funds to cover the salary of a site-based cohort coordinator,
35 who must be housed at each cooperating institution of higher

1 education that has a program, and the additional costs of
2 offering classes in community settings and for tutoring
3 services.

4 (f) The community organization or organizations may
5 receive a portion of the grant money for the expenses of
6 recruitment, community orientation, and counseling of
7 potential candidates ~~participants~~, for providing space in the
8 community, and for working with school personnel to facilitate
9 individual work experiences and support of candidates
10 ~~participants~~.

11 (g) The school district or school employee union or both
12 may receive a portion of the grant money for expenses of
13 supporting the work experiences of candidates ~~participants~~ and
14 providing mentors for graduates. School districts may also use
15 these or other applicable public funds to pay participants in
16 programs under the Initiative for student teaching required by
17 an accredited teacher preparation program. Nothing contained
18 in Section 10-20.15 of the School Code shall prohibit or
19 restrict any such payments.

20 (Source: P.A. 93-802, eff. 1-1-05.)

21 (110 ILCS 48/30)

22 Sec. 30. Implementation of Initiative. The State Board
23 shall develop guidelines and application procedures for the
24 Initiative in fiscal year 2005. The State Board may, if it
25 chooses, award a small number of planning grants during fiscal
26 year 2005 to potential consortia using existing resources. The
27 first programs under the Initiative shall be awarded grants in
28 such a way as to allow candidates ~~participants~~ to begin their
29 work at the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year.

30 (Source: P.A. 93-802, eff. 1-1-05.)

31 (110 ILCS 48/35)

32 Sec. 35. Independent program evaluation. The State Board
33 shall contract for an independent evaluation of program
34 implementation by each of its participating consortia and of

1 the impact of each program, including the extent of candidate
2 ~~student~~ persistence in program enrollment, acceptance as an
3 education major in a 4-year institution of higher education,
4 completion of a bachelor's degree in teaching, obtaining a
5 teaching position in a target school or similar school,
6 subsequent effectiveness as a teacher, and persistence in
7 teaching in a target school or similar school. The evaluation
8 shall assess the Initiative's overall effectiveness and shall
9 identify particular program strategies that are especially
10 effective.

11 (Source: P.A. 93-802, eff. 1-1-05.)